GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4129
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017
Research Accomplishments
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Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's research and development accomplishments of the country in renewable energy do not gain the recognition they deserve and if so, the initiatives made by the Government in this regard;

(b) whether the Government has initiated an exercise for developing a compendium of India's research accomplishments in renewable energy area and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sought inputs from all individuals, institutions and organizations who have contributed in renewable energy research, in order to ensure that the information they are compiling is exhaustive and representative of the research accomplishments of the country and if so, the details thereof and number of areas proposed to be covered under the above database;

(d) whether the Government is considering an ambitious plan to make Varanasi, a "clean electricity city" where only renewable energy would be used and if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard till date; and

(e) whether the urban development, sanitation and solid waste management programmes have been completed in Varanasi in a bid to reduce the carbon footprints?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER, COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has a scheme "Research, Development, and Demonstration (RD&D)" for funding RD&D projects to various academic/research institutions, industry in the areas of solar, wind, biogas, biofuel, small hydro power, hydrogen and fuel cells, geothermal, etc. for technology development and demonstration leading to commercialization. During the 12th Plan Period, 112 projects were sanctioned/ implemented and a total amount of Rs.568 crore was spent on RD&D.

As part of review of achievements of RD&D projects implemented in 12th Plan Period, MNRE decided to interact with experts, project implementers, researchers, related industry and stakeholders sharing the outcomes of projects and seeking their inputs for preparing an action plan for technology development for various applications for 13th Plan Period. A compendium of RD&D achievements will be prepared for appraisal of a panel of experts to be organized in September 2017. The review includes RD&D projects in areas of solar energy, wind energy, bio-energy, small hydro-power, hydrogen and fuel cells.

In addition, the MNRE in July 2017 launched a scheme for awards for innovation in new and renewable energy. Nominations are being invited for the same. The MNRE is in the process of bringing out a policy integrating technology development with innovation.

(d): Interactions have been initiated with concerned stakeholders recently to prepare a plan for making Varanasi as first Indian city powered by 100% renewable energy.

(e): The Urban Development, Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Programme works are in progress. Till now the following works have been done in Varanasi to reduce the Carbon footprints:
â€¢ A 600 Ton Per Day (TPD) capacity waste to compost plant has been installed and is functional.
â€¢ A one TPD flower waste to compost plant has been installed and is functional.
â€¢ A 5TPD waste to energy plant based on biomethanation has been installed and is functional.
â€¢ 36077 Street light points of Sodium lights and florescent tube lights are being replaced with LED based lights. 29762 points have been changed and work is in progress for the rest.This change has reduced the burden of electricity bill by approximately 41% and also the carbon footprints.
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